

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-24 are pending in the instant application. Claims 25-34 have been cancelled herein, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 8, 13, and 21 have been amended herein.

Support for the proposed claim amendments can be found throughout the specification and in the claims as originally filed. Thus, no new matter has been added by this amendment.

Claim Rejections – Double Patenting

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-34 of United States Patent No. 6,238,922. (*See Office Action at page 2*).

Claims 25-34 have been cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, this rejection is moot as it applies to these claims.

Moreover, Applicant has herein amended independent claims 1 and 13. Applicant submits that these claims, as amended herein, (as well as dependent claims 2-12 and 14-24) are no longer coextensive in scope with the claims of United States Patent No. 6,238,922. Thus, Applicant contends that claims 1-24, as amended herein, do not claim the same invention as the claims of United States Patent No. 6,238,922.

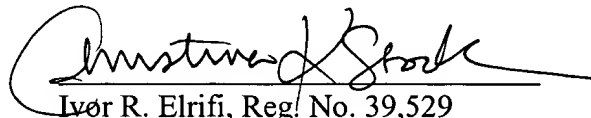
Thus, Applicant contends that the rejection of claims 1-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 should be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

On the basis of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If there are any questions regarding these remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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